

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECSTATE WASHDC 6631

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA LY

SUBJ: TRAVEL THROUGH LIBYA

1. IN VIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF TENSION BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT. QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED BY OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICANS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF TRANSITING LIBYA BY PLANE OR AUTOMOBILE. IN ABSENCE OF ANY GUIDANCE TO CONTRARY, WE ASSUME THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICANS TRANSITING TRIPOLI VIA AIRCRAFT. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION

2. ON 31 AUGUST DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, MAJOR GENERAL SHAWKAT, BRIEFING CAIRO MILITARY ATTACHE CORPS (IIR 6 899 0553 76), SAID AS OF 25 AUGUST LIBYAN BORDER AREAS HAS BEEN DECLARED A MILITARY ZONE AND TRAVEL IS WITH PERMISSION ONLY. NO TOURISTS WILL BE PERMITTED AT MERSA MATRUH. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ZONE BEGINS EAST OF SIDI ABDUL RAHMAN. WE ARE ADVISING ALL POTENTIAL TRAVELERS OF THESE GOE RESTRICTIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CONFLICT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE FOR WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION. WE BELIEVE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES IS LIKELY TO BE SMALL AND GUIDANCE COULD, THEREFORE, BT LIMITED TO THOSE POSTS BORDERING LIBAY TO BE USED IN DISCREET WAY.
EILTS

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